

# **Hingham Historical Commission**

Town Hall, 210 Central Street, Hingham, Massachusetts 02043

To: Richard Morgan, Building Commissioner

Frank and Denise Teixeira, 11 Steamboat Lane

Date: June 10, 2009

Re: 11 Steamboat Lane – Proposed Demolition

#### INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the Town of Hingham By-Law regulating the Demolition of Historically Significant Buildings or Structures, the Hingham Historical Commission has reviewed the demolition permit submitted to the Building Commissioner on March 17, 2009 by Frank and Denise Teixeira (the applicants), seeking to demolish the premises at 11 Steamboat Lane and build a replacement structure or structures.

The premises have been duly designated by the Commission, since September of 2008, for inclusion on the Inventory of the Historic and Prehistoric Assets of the Commonwealth and thus constitute "Regulated Buildings and Structures" within the meaning of Section (c) of the By-Law.

The purpose of the By-Law, as specified in Section (a) thereof, is to "protect the historic and aesthetic qualities of the Town by preserving, rehabilitating or restoring, whenever possible, buildings or structures which constitute or reflect distinctive features of the architectural or historic resources of the Town, thereby promoting the public welfare and preserving the cultural heritage of the Town." A majority of the cities and towns in the Commonwealth have adopted a similar bylaw or ordinance.

Pursuant to Section (d), subsections (2) and (3) of our By-Law, the Commission determined preliminarily, after a site-review of the premises, a review of the draft

assessment form<sup>1</sup>, and after entertaining a presentation by the applicants at a public meeting called for this purpose on April 13, 2009, that the buildings or structures at 11 Steamboat Lane are "historically significant," and duly notified the Building Commissioner and the applicants of this determination in a communication dated April 14, 2009.

The By-Law requires, in subsection (d) (4), that an applicant wishing further consideration of the matter by the Commission then submit, within sixty (60) days, certain information constituting a "demolition plan". The file does not disclose that the applicants fully complied with this requirement, but the Commission nevertheless scheduled and conducted a duly-advertised public hearing on the application for a demolition permit, pursuant to subsection (d) (5) of the By-Law, on May 18, 2009.

#### FINDING:

We find that the age, architectural style, historic association and importance of the premises at 11 Steamboat Lane are as specified in the **Inventory Form** prepared for us by Fannin/Lehner, Preservation Consultants, a copy of which, together with attachments thereto, is attached hereto as "Exhibit A" and incorporated by reference. Briefly stated, we find that this 1905 residence, in the proposed Barnes/Old Colony Hill Historic District, is significant because of its architectural style, apparent association with an architect or architects of note, and association with the Andrew/Mason Estate, and has been termed "Hingham's Shingle Style Relic of the Gilded Age." Further, the connection between the premises at 11 Steamboat Lane and the historically prominent Hersey, Andrew, Thayer and Mason families is amply demonstrated in the consultant's report and need not be restated here. A copy of this report was given to representatives of the applicants at the May 18 hearing.

The applicants' representatives presented evidence that the basement of the dwelling is wet, that the wiring needs updating and that other necessary and desirable improvements would prove difficult and costly. For these reasons and others, their preference is to demolish the existing structure and replace it with a larger dwelling to their liking, as shown in plans submitted by their builder and architect.

The Commission concludes, however, that the existing premises "should preferably be preserved", as an "historically significant building or structure which, because of

 $<sup>^1</sup>$ The Massachusetts Historical Commission's "Form B" – so-called, of which the final version is attached hereto and incorporated by reference.

the important contribution made by such building or structure to the Town's historical and architectural resources, it is in the public interest to preserve, rehabilitate or restore." See subsection (d) (5) of the By-Law.

We were presented with no evidence tending to show that the preservation, rehabilitation or preservation of the premises would be impractical or cost-prohibitive. The integrity of the historic structure has been faithfully preserved by other occupants during the century and more since its construction, and the house remains essentially sound inside and out.<sup>2</sup>

## ORDER:

Since the Commission has determined, in accordance with subsection (d) (7) of the By-Law, that the premises at 11 Steamboat Lane should be preferably be preserved, the Building Commissioner shall not issue a demolition permit for a period of six (6) months from the date of the filing of this report with him, unless we inform him prior to the expiration of such six (6) month period that we are satisfied that the applicants have made a bona fide, reasonable and unsuccessful effort to locate a purchaser for the premises who is willing to preserve, rehabilitate or restore the premises, or, alternatively, have agreed to accept a demolition permit on specified conditions approved by the Commission.

The Commission stands ready to meet and confer with the Applicants in an effort to accommodate our respective concerns. Either they or their representatives are encouraged to communicate their willingness to participate in such an effort at the earliest opportunity.

Any further appeal from this decision must be made pursuant to Section (g) of the By-Law.

3

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See the portfolio of photographs of the exterior and interior at 11 Steamboat Lane, taken on July 5, 2008, by the prior owners, the Williams family, in the Commission's file on this matter.

## FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Pho	togi	ap	h

Insert here or on a Continuation Sheet a digital photograph (either color or black and white).

A paper photographic print (31/2x51/4" or 4x6" must also be attached to the form in this space or to a Continuation Sheet. Prints, from a photo-quality inkjet printer, must use brand name paper and inks approved by MHC. Attached photographs should be clearly identified with town name and property address. See MHC's Guidelines for Inventory Form Photographs.

#### Topographic or Assessor's Map

Insert here or on a Continuation Sheet a map clearly showing the location of the property including the name of the nearest road or street and at least one other intersecting road or feature.

Assessor's maps are preferred, but other forms of detailed plans such as an excerpt from a USGS topographic map or an aerial or satellite photo clearly marked are also acceptable. See MHC's Guidelines for Inventory Form Locational Information.

Recorded by: Fannin/Lehner Preservation Consultants

Organization: Hingham Historical Commission

Date (month / year): April 2009

Assessor's Number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
40/002	Weymouth		

Town: Hingham

Place: (neighborhood or village)
Proposed Barnes/Old Colony Local

Historic District

Address: 11 Steamboat Lane

Historic Name: Mason Estate Guesthouse

Uses:

Present: Residence

Original: Guesthouse to Mason Estate

Date of Construction: 1905

Source: Assessors/Visual Evidence

Style/Form: Shingle Style

Architect/Builder:

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Low random rubble

Wall/Trim:

Weathered shingles

Roof:

Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: One story barn c.1920. Garage c.1920.

Major Alterations (with dates): None

Condition: Excellent

Moved: no | X

yes | Date

Acreage: 1.69 acres

Setting: Located on the west side of the large penisula area below World's End, the land overlooks three sides of Hingham Harbon towards east, north and west. It is considered to be one of the most spectacular water sites in Hingham.

Town Hingham Property Address 11 Steamboat Lane

Area(s) Form No.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

2125



Town

Property Address

Hingham

11 Steamboat Lane
Arca(s) Form No.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Shingle Style residence located at 11 Steamboat Lane is one of the few extant early 20th-century houses in Hingham of this eminently American architectural style. Hingham was established in 1635, and today (April 2009) it still has in existence over 240 homes listed in the Hingham Historical and Architectural Inventory of 2003, dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, through the Colonial, Federal and Greek revival periods, all classically derived styles, influenced by English architecture. Later, by the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, appeared the eclectic revival styles of the period: the Gothic Revival, Second Empire or Mansardic, Italianate, Stick Style, Queen Anne, and Shingle Style. There are only 83 structures of these mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century styles listed in the Inventory; of these, few are Shingle Style residences. This is partially due to the survival of earlier homes, and to the quiet economic times of Hingham of that period. 11 Steamboat Lane will soon join the short Shingle Style list when nominated to Hingham's Historical and Architectural Inventory.

The residence is a fine example of the Shingle Style type houses favored for country and seaside sites, a trend which began with the grandiose shingled summer homes of McKim, Mead and White in the 1880s and continued with the fine Shingle Style houses of William Ralph Emerson in Massachusetts and John Calvin Stevens in Maine. These residences were characterized by quiet, compact massing, enveloping roofs, simple or few classical details, a plethora of porches, enclosed, open or used for sleeping; the walling was often weathered shingles although, at times, the shingles were stained. This last characteristic of weathered shingles was reintroduced in the late 1870s when architects began to take a serious interest in the American historic and architectural past, particularly the 17<sup>th</sup> century weathered clapboarded or shingled houses of New England.

11 Steamboat Lane was built ca. 1905, the year Elizabeth Andrew, granddaughter of Governor John Albion Andrew, married Charles E. Mason. The structure was constructed in a style that reached its highest expression in the seaside resorts of the northeastern seaboard. As it was planned to be a guesthouse, rather than a family home, it does not have the imposing dimensions of similar houses built in Maine, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, and other states. Yet, due to its historic architecture and site, it is one of the most imposing houses overlooking Hingham Harbor. A tall hipped roof, pierced by shed dormers and two chimneys, envelops the structure; the south and north façades display open cross

Town

Hingham

Property Address

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

11	Steamboat Area(s)	Lane Form No.	
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## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

gables. Although compactly massed, there is an interesting patterning in the use of solids and voids as seen in the open porch on the east elevation under the main roof while on the west elevation the semi-enclosed 2<sup>nd</sup> floor porch is covered with a crossed hipped roof. The wrap-around porch has a shed roof emanating from the north and west elevations. The plainness of the architecture is seen in the slightly curved brackets that support the barely perceptible eaves of the roof. Architectural simplicity is also exhibited at the roofed entrance on the south façade and above the door of the 1920s small barn to the east. The shingled walls flow from one elevation to the other, barely visible in the slightly flaring second floor shingles over the first floor; boards or quoins do not interrupt the weathered shingles at the corners of the houses. This shingled movement is smooth and elegant; it enhances the irregularity of the shape of the residence and the uniformity of its surface. The fenestration is traditional, six over six, except for the pattern of horizontals panes of the northwest wrap-porch which allows a superb panoramic view of Hingham harbor.

11 Steamboat Lane is one of the most historically and architecturally significant early 20th century Shingle Style residences in the World's End neighborhood and in Hingham. (MBL)

Town Hingham Property Address
11 Steamboat Lane

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

#### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Shingle-Style guesthouse of the Mason Estate at 11 Steamboat Lane was built in 1905 or shortly thereafter. The main house of the Mason Estate was located at 38 Martin's Lane. Although the two houses were on different streets, they actually were fairly close together, connected by a path and small bridge, clearly visible in an aerial photograph of 1928. The guesthouse sits on a rise, occupying a magnificent site overlooking Hingham Harbor. Below the house lie Barnes's Rocks and Mansfield's Cove. It is located in the World's End neighborhood, an area east of Martin's Lane.

World's End, which connects to the neighborhood to the east and north, is a 251-acre peninsula of two glacial drumlins joined by a beach affording spectacular ocean views with winding roadways designed by the renowned landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted. The peninsula is a property of the Trustees of Reservations.

The guesthouse is not only significant architecturally as an excellent example of the Shingle-Style, not common in Hingham, but also historically. The history of the house is interwoven with three powerful Boston families, the Andrews, the Thayers and the Masons, who made Hingham their beloved summer home and helped form the nucleus of Hingham's summer colony.

Congressman John Forrester Andrew (1850-1895), the son of the great Civil War governor, John Albion Andrew (1818-1867), built the main "Cottage" in 1891. Governor Andrew and his family had a long and happy relationship with Hingham, beginning shortly after his graduation from Bowdoin College and strengthened by his marriage to Hingham-born Eliza Jones Hersey in 1848. Residing in Hingham during the summer and autumn months, the Andrews occupied various houses on Main, South and Summer Streets.

John Forrester Andrew married Harriet Thayer, the daughter of the fabulously wealthy Boston tycoon, Nathaniel Thayer (1808-1883), in 1883. The couple lived in Boston's fashionable Back Bay in the winter but visited John F.'s mother, Mrs. John A. Andrew, in Hingham in the summer. Unfortunately, the same year they built their summer cottage, Harriet Thayer Andrew died, leaving her husband and daughters Cornelia (b. 1884), age seven and

Town Hingham Property Address
11 Steamboat Lane

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s)	Form No.

Elizabeth (b. 1886), age five. Adding to the children's misfortune, their father, John F., died in 1895 with Cornelia now eleven and Elizabeth nine.

The year 1905 was a momentous year for nineteen year-old Elizabeth Andrew, granddaughter of Governor John A. Andrew and daughter of John Forrester Andrew. In that year she married Charles Ellis Mason, the son of Mortimer Mason, senior partner of S. D. Warren & Co., which owned a group of paper mills. During the same period she inherited what came to be called the Mason House. Although her father had died ten years earlier, she probably had to reach the age of 18 or 19 before she could legally inherit the property. The young Mason couple, who were to become generous philanthropists to their well-loved summer town, must have set about having the guesthouse at 11 Steamboat Lane constructed shortly after their marriage.

The Masons continued to live in the main house on Martin's Lane until 1944 when they were divorced. Elizabeth Andrew Mason then moved to the guest house at 11 Steamboat Lane and, unaccountably, had the main house demolished. Elizabeth Mason continued to occupy the guesthouse until 1951.

Alice P. and L. Ware Williams bought 11 Steamboat Lane, by then a separate property from the old Mason Estate, in 1951. The property remained in the Williams family until 2008.

11 Steamboat Lane is Hingham's last direct physical connection to the family of Governor John Albion Andrew as well as the final segment of the former Mason Estate. Both of these connections helped make a significant contribution to the narrative of Hingham's turn-of-the-century summer colony, an important era in Hingham's history. 11 Steamboat Lane will be a major component in the proposed Barnes/Old Colony Hill Local Historic District.

MJF

Town Hingham Property Address 11 Steamboat Lane

Area(s) Form No.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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Town Hingham Property Address
11 Steamboat Lane

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD

Area(s) Form No

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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<u>Domestic Architecture 1890-1930</u>. Scarborough ME: Harp
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Williams, Peter. Letter to Bill and Kathy Reardon, March 13, 2009. Letter relating to the history of 11 Steamboat Lane, which his parents, Alice P. and L. Ware Williams owned from c. 1952 to 2008.

## **Directories**

Directory of Hingham and Hull, Mass. 1894.

Resident and Business Directory of Hingham and Cohasset Massachusetts.
1912-1913.

List of Persons in the Town of Hingham, Mass Assessed a Poll Tax, 1912-1920.

<u>POLK'S Hingham Directory 1928-29-30</u>. Boston: R. L Polk & Co. Street Lists of the Town of Hingham, 1901-1942.

# Maps and Atlases: Arranged by date published.

1890: "Plan Showing the Steamboat Landings at Various Times." ("Compiled from the Most Authentic Sources by Francis H. Lincoln, 1890."). <u>History of the Town of Hingham</u>, Vol I, Part 2, p. 248.

1928: Aerial View as published in "A History of World's End" by William H. C. Walker and Willard Brewer Walker, 1974.

1984: USGS Quad Map: Weymouth MA

# Town of Hingham

Town of Hingham, Assessors records.

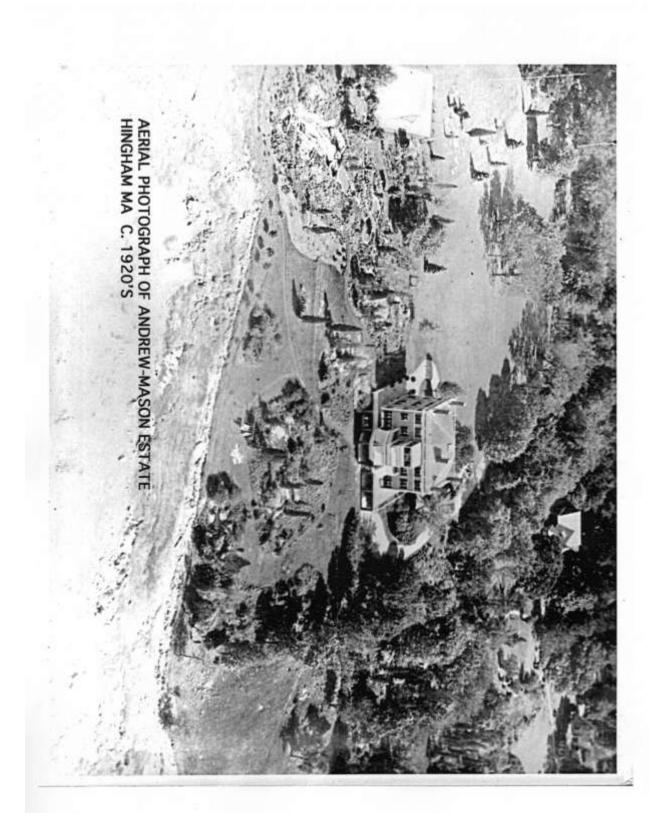
## Other Sources

"The Fascinating History of 11 Steamboat Lane: Hingham's Shingle-Style Relic of The "Gilded Age." A short essay, with photographs, by Alexander Macmillan, Hingham MA. May 17, 2009. (Attached).









# The Fascinating History of 11 Steamboat Lane: Hingham's Shingle-Style Relic of the "Gilded Age"

Governor John Andrew was drawn to Hingham through his marriage to Eliza Jones Hersey, whose family came to own much of the land between Summer Street and the harbor where Steamboat Lane, Button Cove Road and the southerly portion of Martin's Lane are now located. Her uncle, Alfred C. Hersey, owned the Old Colony House at the top of the hill, operated the Steamship Company, and was the first president of the South Shore Railroad.

Governor Andrew lived in this area at 110 Summer Street, in the house still known as the Governor Andrew House, until he died at age 49 in 1867, leaving his widow and four young children.

His only surviving son, John Forrester Andrew, born in Hingham in 1850 and a graduate of Harvard in 1872, followed his father into politics, serving in the legislature for several terms. A passionate "Mugwump" reformer, he left the Republican Party when James G. Blaine was nominated as president, and in 1886 became the Democratic candidate for governor, losing the election by a whisker. Thereafter, in 1889, he was elected to Congress.

In 1883, John Forrester Andrew married Harriet Thayer at Trinity Church in what the N.Y. Times termed a "Brilliant Boston Wedding". Harriet's father Nathaniel Thayer had died earlier that year. A "capitalist," a builder of railroads, and major financial supporter of Harvard University later in life, Thayer was called the "richest man in New England" in his N.Y. Times obituary.

Daughter Harriet inherited a sizeable estate, and together with her new husband, John Forrester Andrew, built a huge mansion at 32 Hereford Street on the corner of Commonwealth Avenue in Boston. (As principal developer of the Back Bay, her father reserved 8 corner lots on the sunny side of Commonwealth Avenue for his children and himself.) This dwelling, now an MIT fraternity and listed on the National Register of

Historic Places, was designed by famed architects McKim Mead and White, and cost more than \$25 million to build in today's dollars.

The Andrews had two daughters, Cornelia and Elizabeth, born in 1884 and 1886, and split their summers between his mother's home in Hingham and her family's estate in Lancaster, until resolving to build a "cottage" of their own on waterfront land obtained from his mother's family. In 1890 John Forrester Andrew and Harriet Thayer Andrew hired architect Alexander Wadsworth Longfellow and landscape designer Frederick Law Olmsted to undertake the project. Through that year and the next, work proceeded furiously on what was to become Hingham's only "gilded age" mansion, plans for which are prominently featured in Architecture after Richardson: Regionalism before Modernism--Longfellow, Alden, and Harlow in Boston and Pittsburgh, by Margaret Henderson Floyd (1994.) Tragically, Harriet Thayer Andrew died at age 38 in 1891, before the work was finished, leaving her two young daughters motherless. (A poignant, contemporary painting of the little girls still hangs in the library at 32 Hereford Street.)

John Forrester Andrew spent the next three summers in the Hingham mansion with his daughters, his mother and his unmarried sister Edith. Then, like his father the Governor before him, he died suddenly of a heart attack at age 45 in 1895. Cornelia and Elizabeth were now orphans at ages 9 and 11 - albeit very wealthy orphans. Aunt Edith Andrew watched over them, while Uncle Nathaniel Thayer Jr. looked after their money. Edith made sure that the girls' lives were elegant and stylish, that they travelled grandly throughout the world, and made "debuts."

In 1903, presumably planning for their joint occupancy of the estates in Boston and in Hingham, Uncle Nathaniel Thayer purchased in their name the adjacent parcel to the east where a "guest house" (now 11 Steamboat Lane) was built to handle the "overflow". (The mansion, gardens and other outbuildings reportedly were served by a staff of 40.)

It is unclear whether the "guest house" was designed by Alexander Wadsworth Longfellow or perhaps by H. Langford Warren, a contemporary architect who similarly had worked with Richardson, and was, at that time, Dean of the Harvard School of Architecture (now the School of Design) and President of the Arts and Crafts Society.

Maureen Meister, an architectural historian and author of *H. Langford Warren: Architecture and the Arts and Crafts Movement in Boston*, (2003) thinks the shingle-style 11 Steamboat Lane house could have been designed by either Warren or Longfellow, but sees a "wild" similarity between this project and the house at 90 White Head Road, Cohasset, reportedly designed by Warren on land belonging to the Thayers. (The Cohasset historic inventory form for the 90 White Head Road house sheds no light on this point.)

The lives of the well-to-do Andrew daughters changed radically, however, when each married at age 19, to 21-year old Harvard graduates who were Back Bay neighbors. Cornelia married John Dudley Clark in 1904 in a glittering ceremony at Trinity Church – not unlike that of her mother and father 20 years earlier – with 16 bridesmaids and 16 ushers. Elizabeth, the shyer younger sister, married Charles Ellis Mason in 1905 in a more modest wedding at St. John's Church in Hingham.

The next year, perhaps at the urging of their new husbands, the girls agreed to divide the properties, with Cornelia taking the Boston mansion and Elizabeth taking the Hingham "cottage" and outbuildings. Between 1907 and the mid 1920's Elizabeth Andrew Mason and her husband Charles made Hingham their legal residence, engaging in philanthropic endeavors locally and throughout the state and nation. In particular, the Masons were loyal supporters of Booker T. Washington and his Tuskegee Institute. Elizabeth Andrew Mason had Washington as her guest on more than one occasion, and in 1913 donated the John A. Andrew Memorial Hospital at Tuskegee, in honor of her grandfather, the Governor.

In 1916 Elizabeth also acquired what was later called the "Governor Andrew House" at 178 North Street at Fountain Square in Hingham, making it available to social service groups and later deeding it to the Visiting Nurses' Association. She was also a generous supporter of the Historical Society and the Arts and Crafts Society in Hingham.

Although her sister Cornelia had died young, like her mother Harriet Andrew, at age 34 during the massive influenza epidemic in 1918, leaving five young children behind her, Elizabeth lived on through the 1950's, staying in Hingham a major fraction of the year and at 25 Exeter Street in Boston during the winter, raising three children – Harriet, John Andrew Mason (who is buried near his grandfather's statue in the Hingham Cemetery), and Charles E. Mason, Jr.

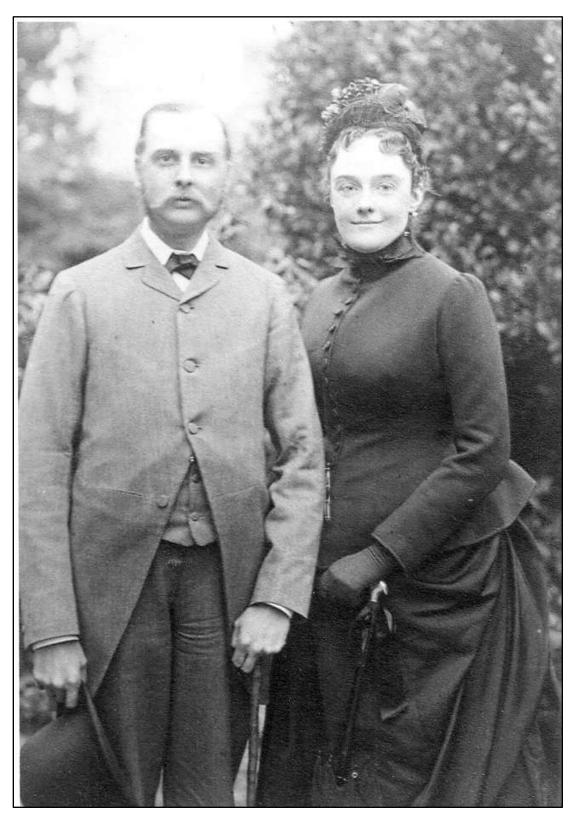
In 1944, after 39 years of marriage, Elizabeth Andrew Mason and Charles E. Mason were divorced. She very quickly "downsized" – selling the Exeter Street property and demolishing the Hingham mansion before the year was out. ("It was hard to get servants for it" was her reported excuse.) Thereafter, for the next 8 years, she spent her summers in the "guest house" at 11 Steamboat Lane (with a much-reduced staff.)

All eight of her grandchildren spent summer vacations with her at 11 Steamboat Lane in the mid-1940's. Her granddaughter and namesake Elizabeth had her portrait painted here, at age 4, by the celebrated Hingham artist (and distant relative) Polly (Thayer) Starr.

In 1951, in ill health, Elizabeth Andrew Mason sold 11 Steamboat Lane to Ware and Alice Williams, who faithfully preserved it, largely as they found it, for many decades, finally selling in 2008, shortly before Ware's death at age 91.



Cornelia and Elizabeth Andrew were wealthy orphans after the untimely death of their parents, Harriet Thayer Andrew and John Forrester Andrew in 1891 and 1895 respectively.



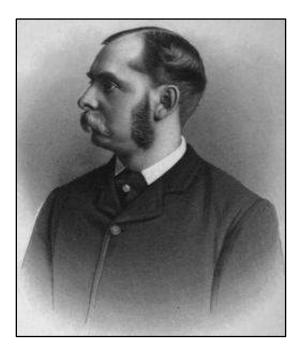
John Forrester Andrew and Harriet Thayer Andrew, c.1885, who built the mansion in 1891



Grandfather Nathaniel Thayer Jr. (1808-1883) – "The Richest Man in New England"



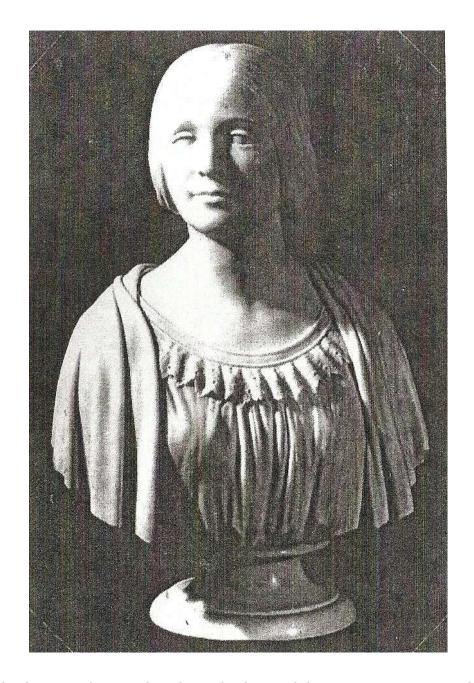
Grandfather John A. Andrew (1818-1867) Governor of Massachusetts. He lived at 110 Summer Street. His widow, Eliza (Hersey) owned the land where the Andrew/Mason estate and 11 Steamboat Lane were later built.



John Forrester Andrew, (1850-1895) father of Elizabeth Andrew Mason and a Hingham native, descended, on his mother's side, from William Hersey, one of the first settlers in 1635. He built the seaside mansion where Elizabeth resided from her marriage in 1905 until 1944, when she ordered it demolished after her divorce.



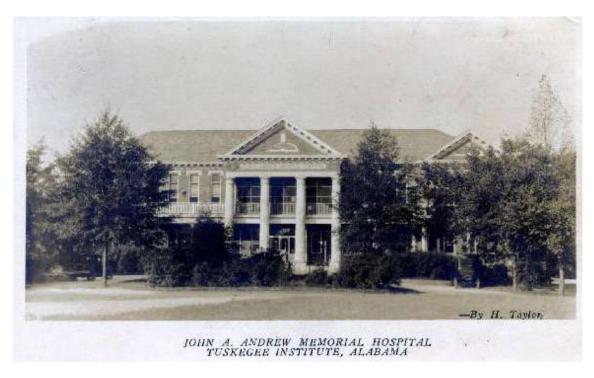
Elizabeth Mason's great, great grandfather Stephen Van Rensselaer, who died in 1839, owned 1,200 square miles of upstate New York. He is remembered in local lore as "The Last Patroon." With assets at death estimated at ten million dollars, *Fortune* Magazine named him the tenth richest American of all time.



Elisabeth Mason's grandmother, the beautiful Harriet Van Rensselaer, brought a large dowry when she married Nathaniel Thayer, Jr. in 1846.



Booker T. Washington: His Tuskegee Institute was lavishly endowed by Elizabeth Andrew Mason



The John A. Andrew Memorial Hospital at the Tuskegee Institute, donated by Elizabeth Andrew Mason in 1913.



Elizabeth Andrew Mason, as a Hingham bride in 1905. Inheriting a fortune, she devoted her life to philanthropy, spending summers at her Hingham estate. In 1944, she demolished the large 1891 Andrew/Mason mansion, where she had lived since 1905, and moved to the smaller "guest house" at 11 Steamboat Lane.

During the year Mrs. Charles
E. Mason [grandaughter of Gov.
Andrew] offered to the Association
the John A. Andrew House. This
offer was accepted in October after
considerable trepidation on our part
as to whether we were undertaking a
burden too great for our powers.
With full appreciation of the generosity of her gift, we have become
the holders of this property, trusting
that it may evolve into a usefulness
to the community as great as Mrs.
Mason and every member of the
Board desires for it.

From the Annual Report of 1929



In 1967, Board President Constance Prudden thanks Samuel Hibbard and W. Harold Leathers for the sign marking the John A. Andrew House at 178 North St.

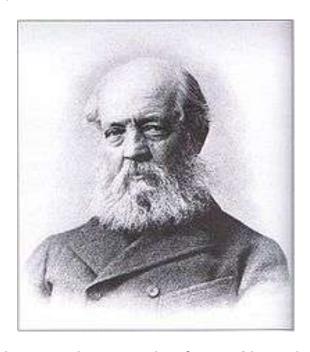
Elizabeth Andrew Mason was a generous supporter of charities in Hingham, and gave the "John Andrew House" at 178 North Street to the Hingham Visiting Nurses Association to use as their headquarters. *Above left*: excerpt from the 1929 Annual Report of the VNA; *Above right*: sign identifying the House is erected in 1967; *Below*: VNA Red Feather drive at the John Andrew House in 1959.







Left above: Alexander Wadsworth Longfellow, 1854-1934, the architect who designed the 1891 Andrew/Thayer mansion off Martin's Lane at Hingham Harbor; Right above: H. Langford Warren, 1857-1917, Dean of the Harvard School of Architecture, who may have designed the house at 11 Steamboat Lane. Longfellow and Warren began their careers with H.H. Richardson.



Famed landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, 1822-1903, designed the original landscape plan for the Andrew/Mason estate in Hingham.



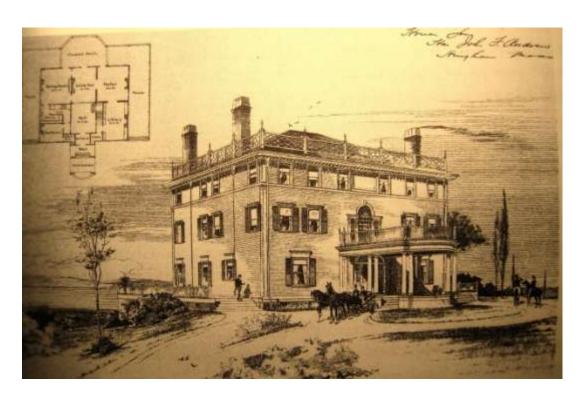
Steamboat Lane – "guest house" for Andrew/Mason mansion – circa  $1917\,$ 



11 Steamboat Lane in 1952, shortly after Ware & Alice Williams bought it from Elizabeth Andrew Mason



11 Steamboat Lane, July 5, 2008



The Andrew/Mason mansion on Hingham Harbor, connected to the "guesthouse" at 11 Steamboat Lane by a floating footbridge. (Architect's rendering: 1891)

- Alexander Macmillan 5/17/09